

Hamilton Field, Frame Building Type B
(Facility Nos. 491, 653, 661, 662, 680,
915, 916, 933, 935)
East of Nave Drive
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CL

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICL-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD

Frame Building Type B

(Facility Nos. 491, 653, 661, 662, 680, 915, 916, 933, 935)

HABS
CAL
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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Frame Building Type B
Supply Room (Facility No. 491 [north corner of Escolta and San Pablo Avenue]), Supply and Equipment Warehouse (#653 [D Street east of B Street]), Squadron Headquarters (#661 [southwest corner of intersection of D and A Street], #662 [D Street west of A Street]), Special Service Supply and Issue (#680 [B Street north of intersection with A Street]), Squadron Headquarters (#915 [along Northwestern Pacific railroad line north of Main Entrance Road]), Supply and Equipment Room (#916 [along Northwestern Pacific railroad line north of Main Entrance Road]), Division Headquarters (#933 [along C Street north of Main Entrance Road]), Numbered AF Headquarters (#935 [along C Street north of Main Entrance Road])

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; a: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

These small one-story frame buildings are the most prevalent type of temporary building currently remaining on the base. They were used mostly as squadron and division headquarters buildings, and also for small supply and equipment dispensaries within the World War II expansion areas on the base. They are considered significant for their association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

These nine one-story frame buildings measure 25 by 60 feet (#491, #916, #935) or 25 by 70 feet (#661, #662, #680, #915, #933). Facility No. 653 is also 25 feet wide, but was extended to 125 feet in length. They have low-pitched composition gable roofs and horizontal board siding clad with asbestos shingles. They all have six- over six-light or eight- over eight-light double hung wood sash windows and wood panel doors. Metal ventilation shafts are

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present along the ridgelines. One of the supply buildings (#680) has metal bars over the windows and has one or more loading bays with suspended wood doors. Facility No. 661 was converted to a recreation room in the 1960s, and an overhanging porch was added to the east side. The porch roof is supported by wood posts with knee braces. The four buildings in the 900 group have been variously upgraded and maintained by Navy personnel, although the original building plans were not altered. The asbestos shingles on these particular buildings have been replaced by modern roughhewn plywood siding and have new entries and wheelchair access ramps.

Interiors of the supply facilities are divided into one or two small rooms used as offices and one large supply room. The Headquarters are divided into a series of small offices along a double barrel corridor. Offices are separated by temporary wood partitions. Floors are tongue and groove wood covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tiles. Main supply room floors are concrete. Ceilings are open with exposed six-inch-square roof trusses supported with braces. Buildings have exposed duct work and were heated with forced air gas furnaces.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

These nine buildings were constructed between August and November, 1942 for total costs ranging from \$5,773.40 to \$8,719.00. While uses varied, all were of a similar architectural style and were intended for temporary use. The Navy buildings (900 series) have been renovated and maintained since 1974, but still retain their original mass and shape.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the following project Field Record work:

Facility No. 491, Supply Room (photographed May 1993): roll 40, exposures 7-8; roll 45, exposures 5-6

Facility No. 653, Supply Equipment Storage (photographed May 1993): roll 2, exposures 7-8, 11-12; roll 3, exposures 1-2; roll 53, exposures 9-12; roll 54, exposures 1-2

Facility No. 661, Squadron Headquarters (photographed May 1993): roll 1, exposures 5-6; roll 4, exposures 9-10; roll 5, exposures 11-12; roll 6, exposures 1-2; roll 52, exposures 11-12

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- Facility No. 662, Squadron Headquarters (photographed May 1993): roll 1, exposures 3-4; roll 3, exposures 9-12; roll 53, exposures 1-2
- Facility No. 680, Special Service Supply and Issue (photographed May and June 1993): roll 5, exposures 1-2; roll 55, exposures 1-2; roll 71, exposures 1-2, 9-10
- Facility No. 915, Squadron Headquarters (photographed February 1995): roll 100, exposures 11-12; roll 101, exposures 1-2
- Facility No. 916, Supply/Equipment Room (photographed February 1995): roll 100, exposures 7-10
- Facility No. 933, Division Headquarters (photographed March 1995): roll 101, exposures 3-4; roll 102, exposures 9-12; and roll 103, exposures 3-4
- Facility No. 935, Numbered Air Force Headquarters (photographed March 1995): roll 102, exposures 7-8, 11-12; and roll 102, exposures 3-4

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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